

# MEXICO MISSOURI MESSAGE.

VOL. 14

MEXICO, MISSOURI, JUNE 26, 1913

NO. 32

## ACCUSED OF MURDER.

### Vandalia Man Finds Himself in Deep Trouble.

John Nicholson was arrested at Vandalia last Saturday by order of Prosecuting Attorney A. C. Whitson, on the charge of murder following the coroner's investigation into the death of Mrs. Nicholson and her adopted son, Howard, 10 years old, who were fatally burned in a fire in their home, Friday night. Nicholson was brought to the Mexico Jail by Sheriff J. W. Barnett. Nicholson refused to make any statement beyond saying his wife was burned when a coal oil lamp she had left burning in the room exploded.

The fire took place shortly before midnight. The screams of the woman and child aroused the neighborhood. Jesse McNeal, yardmaster for the Mississippi Glass Company at Vandalia, was the first to arrive. McNeal ran into the blazing room and found Nicholson carrying his wife into an adjoining room. The boy was found standing in the middle of the floor, his clothing blazing, by Mrs. Homer Griffith, a sister of Mrs. Nicholson, who lives near by. The boy, it is said, received fatal burns while trying to save his foster mother. Nicholson was not injured. His bed was in an adjoining room. The fire was extinguished by McNeal, a negro named Ed. Johnson and Edward Butts, a neighbor. Nicholson told neighbors the lamp had exploded. Bessie, an adopted daughter was visiting at Centralia.

At the inquest conducted by Coroner Robert C. Strode, Dr. W. W. Bland, a physician of Vandalia, testified that Mrs. Nicholson had said: "John did it. He threw gasoline or coal oil on the bed and told me, 'I am going to burn you up,' and he lighted a match and set it to the bed."

Dr. Bland's testimony was corroborated by Doctors Hollingsworth and J. O. Terrill. Witnesses who were at the dying woman's bedside swore she asserted a \$1000 insurance had been taken out on her life, and she asked that none of the money go to her husband. She wanted Howard to receive it in event the boy survived, she said, and if they both died she asked that the money go to her brother, Homer Griffith. Before he died, Howard asked the physicians if his mother would die, and the child prayed that she might be spared and that he might live.

The verdict of the coroner's jury follows:

"We, the jury, find that Mrs. John Nicholson and Howard Nicholson came to their deaths in a fire, and we find from the evidence presented that said fire was lighted by the hand of John Nicholson."

Coroner Strode states that the oil lamp, which Nicholson said had exploded, was found on the floor with the burner unscrewed from the glass bowl.

### 106 in Shade.

Laddonia, Mo., June 19.—The thermometer registered 106 degrees in the shade at this place yesterday. The grass is burning up.

J. W. Coakley of Rush Hill was in this city Tuesday. He reports some showers from his locality but not rain enough. He is hopeful for corn prospects and left substantial check for renewal to the Message.

Merle, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Shobe is having a tussle with typhoid-malarial fever. Her condition is better at the present writing.

## SOME INTERVIEWS.

Charlie Baker: I traded my farm off, but I'll get it again. Will I leave the farm? Not much, I won't.

Ned Hagan: I was indeed sorry to hear of the death of George Fritch. But I knew he had not been well for a year or more. He was a good fellow and a fine citizen.

A. B. Smith: I am still manager of the big store for Fredendall & Wilson up at Boonville, Mo. We have a fine trade. I like to get back to Mexico occasionally. It is a good old town.

Charlie Shoup: Say, aren't the chickens eating all you'll shovel out to 'em this dry weather? No grass and weeds. I wonder what the fellow is doing who has a large flock of geese or ducks—no green forage and the "water in the branch gone low."

W. T. Wilkerson: Well, a good many questions were put to me about that "Independent Coal Mine." The drouth hurt—no oats to thresh. The fellow who had binder twine to sell got left on expected sales something like I missed it on expected sales of coal to run the threshing engines.

Wm. Frazier: I returned last week from my old home at Toronto, Ohio. The surroundings didn't look like they used to. Didn't meet many of the old neighbors. Nearly all the old land marks were gone. It made me want to return to my adopted county of Audrain and State of Missouri.

Russell Emmons: That first rain for six weeks the weather man sent last Saturday began to fall first at Glasgow, Mo. It came on and rained at Moberly. Then the cloud went south to the Missouri river, then circled back over Mexico—leaving Centralia still in the dry. What kind of a wind was it that carried that cloud around that way?

M. Donnelly: I have had my frogs in cold storage lately. I am sorry for Philip Shire. A. W. Worsham down in Texas sent him a bunch of horned frogs recently and Philip let 'em get away. He is afraid now they will "cross" with his regular herd, and he may raise nothing but runt frogs hereafter. Worsham no business sending scrub stock up here into Missouri.

A. Pfitzer: I came to this state 30 years ago from Indiana. First settled in Cole county. In 1886 I bought the farm now owned by George Snedeker, five miles southeast of Mexico, just across the road east of the old Tom McIntire place. I now own a farm eight miles south of Mexico. Is my name of German origin? Don't know. My grandfather went to Germany from another part of Europe, and I guess he carried the name with him. I have always been pleased with Audrain. As to this drouth, Audrain and the State have only suffered with other States.

S. J. Bowne, Jr.: I, as road-overseer in my district, built three big concrete bridges last week; one, 20 feet in length, another 27 and the other 46. I have put in 14 concrete bridges in my district. The greater cost of the culverts and bridges is donated; the work is costing the county but very little money. When a man donates a bridge I put the year and his name in concrete on one end of the bridge. Even the young boys here and there over the district

are donating work. We are going to be the first district in the county with every stream or draw spanned by a permanent bridge. Let the rest of the county take notice. Come up and we'll tell you how we do it.

E. F. Kunkel: After not being out of Audrain for nearly four years, with Ferrie and Felton, we went on the excursion to St. Louis. The large crowd was soon lost in the big city. After sight seeing we went to the new union M. E. church where Dr. Grant Robbins, well known here, is pastor. He has several Mexico people in his church; the Sunday school numbers over 400 and large congregations. The Dr. was associated with Bro. Kokendoff in Sedalia and found him a grand man to know. Henry Robbins is an Oklahoma editor. His wife was formerly Miss Ida Childs, teacher in Hardin College. The Dr. sends love to former friends.

## EAST END NOTES.

Earl Butts on the A. T. Culwell farm is making hay.

Roy Saxe has joined the U. S. Navy at San Francisco, Cal.

Joe Fry and family of Monroe City visited their brother, Edwin Webber, and family last week.

Chas. Pines of Illinois visited David Potter and family and other relatives last week.

Thos. Hamlett sold 1000 bushels of corn last week to different parties at 65c per bushel.

Merrell Stuart of near Estes, lost his barn and its contents by lightning last Tuesday night. He had turned his horses out of the building only a few minutes before it was fired. We understand there was no insurance on the property.

Miss Maude Barbee was the guest of Miss Zoe Rigg in Middletown last week.

Miss Lena Shoeman is in Louisiana for a two weeks' visit.

M. D. Parker sold a Jersey calf to parties at Festus, Mo., recently at a fancy price.

R. P. Keith had a load of steers on the St. Louis market last week that sold at \$8.20; Otis Keith a load of heifers at \$7.35; Fred Bishop a load of heifers at \$7.50.

J. D. Lewellen also had two loads of cattle on same market.

James Lovelace drilled a well for G. B. Rhodes recently getting an inexhaustible supply of water at 74 feet. Also for J. H. Clithero 150 feet. Another for Chas. Clithero 110 feet, and are now drilling for L. B. Kirk.

W. C. Gray struck inexhaustible water for Zack Bondurant at 55 feet and is now drilling for J. D. Lewellen.

G. W. Pines, south of Vandalia, lost his barn with all of the contents by lightning Saturday evening. Also his granary and ice house. A mare and colt and a fine span of black horses were rescued from the building. Two good wagons, two buggies, spring wagon, and quite a quantity of grain and hay belonging to Mr. Pines and Chas. Nuckles, his son-in-law, were burned. The barn was insured for \$200. Small insurance on contents.

Good showers have fallen the last few days, relieving the extreme drouth considerable, but some places were not favored and are yet needing rain badly.

## Can't Be Without.

Mrs. J. N. Mayes, at Diamond, Mo., under date of June 20, 1913, writes us as follows:

"We are dry, but not suffering for rain. Corn looks well and wheat and oats are fine. Meadows are short."

"Find enclosed one dollar for my renewal of the Message. We can't do without it, as it is a letter from home every week."

## FIRST SESSION OF JUVENILE COURT.

J. At. Brown, Probation Officer.

Judge W. W. Botts, by virtue of his office of Probate Judge has been since June 1st Judge of the Juvenile Court of Audrain Co. He has appointed J. At. Brown, Probation Officer, the State allowing \$300 a year for that office. This appointment is subject to approval of State Board of Charities and Corrections of which Wm. E. Cross of Columbia is secretary. Judge Botts entered upon the duties of his office Monday and has designated the first Monday in each month for transaction of the business of that Court.

By enactment of the General Assembly of 1913 the State Board of Charities and Corrections has a department known as the Children's Bureau and the Board shall supervise the treatment of the dependent and neglected children, thus entering into the relation of guardian of said children.

The design of the new law is that delinquent children may not be treated as culprits, neither exploited by having to work for their "board and keep," but that they may have a home and a chance for schooling. The first efforts of the Board is to take children out of county almshouses. From lack of funds the law is practically inoperative before September 1, 1913.

## FAMILIES POISONED.

Ate Infected Tomatoes Brought From St. Louis.

Mrs. C. D. Rodgers of Mexico received a dispatch Friday night to come to Montgomery City at once, that her little daughter, Virginia Rose, visiting the family of Prosecuting Attorney Harry Black of that city, had been poisoned. They were at supper and ate tomatoes, and came near dying.

Those ailing are: Mrs. Harry Black, Miss Bessie James, Theodore, Elizabeth and Louise Gup-ton, and Miss Virginia Rodgers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. D. Rodgers of Mexico.

Mr. Black, who brought the tomatoes from St. Louis, and Wm. Gupton, his brother-in-law, were absent from supper, and escaped the ptomaine poisoning.

Miss James and Theodore Gup-ton are still seriously ill.

Miss Virginia Rodgers is now much better and continues to improve.

Dan Dillard and the following friends enjoyed a picnic together last Thursday at Mr. Dillard's cabin on Skull Lick, north of Mexico: W. J. Botts, W. J. Woodriddle, C. H. Hamilton, Frank Sannebeck, Frank McCord, Ivan Ashworth, W. W. Fry, W. W. Fry, Jr., Joseph Steinman, Conrad Sannebeck, and Ole Hanson.

The Baptist W. M. U. of Audrain hold an all-day meeting at Hopewell next Sunday. Miss Elinor Mare, State secretary, and Miss Martha Sudlinger, missionary teacher in the Tennessee mountains, have prominent places on the program. A basket dinner and an interesting, profitable day is anticipated.

Miss Lottie Cornett of Mexico, daughter of Mr. W. E. Cornett, graduated last week from St. Elizabeth's Institute in St. Louis. Miss Cornett had the second honors of her class. She is a bright young woman.

The Elks base ball team played the Molino team on the grounds of the latter one day last week. Mexico won 28 to 6.

## GEORGE FRITCH DEAD.

One of the County's Very Best Citizens.

George Fritch, aged 49 years, died at his home two miles south of Laddonia last Thursday morning. He had been unwell for a year or more with kidney trouble and about two weeks since took down with typhoid fever, sinking rapidly until his death.

Funeral service was held at the home Friday morning, at 10 o'clock, conducted by Rev. H. B. Rice, burial in Laddonia cemetery.

Deceased is survived by the wife, who before her marriage was Miss Ibbie McDaniel. There are three children—Charles, Levi and Georgia. The father and mother also survive, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fritch, of Vandalia.

Mr. Fritch was one of the most popular citizens of the county. He was a member of the Masonic order, and his burial was with Masonic honors. He was also a member of the Audrain County Democrat Central Committee.

The funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Laddonia. A large delegation of Masons was in attendance from Martinsburg. Prof. J. L. Shobe and John W. Freeman attended from Mexico.

Deceased owned a 140 acre farm, one of the prettiest places in that part of the county. It was known as the Old Stan McDaniel farm, where Mrs. Fritch was born and reared. We join with many friends in extending sympathy to the widow and the fatherless children.

## Epworth League, District Session at Fulton.

Mexico District Convention of the Epworth League was in session at Fulton Monday and Tuesday of this week. A large number from Mokane, Montgomery and other places were here en route Monday and a number from Mexico also attended. Miss Bessie Tucker was a delegate from Mexico League. Others from Mexico taking part on the program are Rev. A. B. Culbertson, Misses Culbertson and Pearson and Tom Bruce. Ray Miller and Miss Mary Stallings are in debate with Allen Richardson and Miss Alma Smith of Moberly on the subject, "The Call for Help is Greater in China than in any Foreign Nation."

## Sheriff's Sales.

Sheriff J. W. Barnett had the following land sales at the Mexico court house last Friday:

120 acres, north of Mexico, in partition under Matilda Sims et al vs. Alice Willingham et al, to George and Will Mongler, for \$4,050.

One-fifth interest in 120 acres west of Mexico, special execution under Kate Cogswell et al vs. J. H. Haley, to Mrs. Kate Cogswell for \$985.

Two and a half acres in Vandalia, in partition under J. E. McPike et al vs. Restora McPike, to J. E. McPike for \$900.

Half interest in house and lot and lots 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, Harrison's Addition to Mexico, general execution under Mexico Savings Bank vs. Ed. Goolsby, to Tom Kunkel for \$120.

Rev. E. S. Gibbs of Mexico preached the funeral of Tureman Day at New Hope Baptist church in Callaway county one day last week. Mr. Day was 64 years old and died suddenly.

Mrs. M. A. McClelland of Me-Credie is visiting her son, George Woolery, southwest of Mexico.

Miss Frances Cunningham, northeast of Mexico, is visiting relatives in Milwaukee, Wis.

## 13 CLASSY NAGE.

Unlucky Number, but Then—The Big Mexico Fair.

Thirteen horses from Missouri and Kentucky have been nominated for the big \$1,500 saddle stake at the Mexico Fair August 12 to 15. This is the largest stake offered anywhere in the country. Nominations for this stake, the \$500 junior stake and the \$500 light-harness stake, closed Saturday night. The entries in the three stakes follow:

\$1,500 Commercial Clubs guaranteed saddle stake—Maj. Mack, H. B. Mudd and Vansolke, Monroe City, Mo.; Fos McDonald, H. A. Greenwell, Lakenan, Mo.; Intelligencer, R. H. Cawthorn, Mexico, Mo.; Kimokan, Miss Loula Long, Longview Farm, Kansas City, Mo.; My Major Dare, Miss Loula Long, Longview Farm, Kansas City, Mo.; Gingerhead Man, Paul Brown, St. Louis, Mo.; Mary Dowling, Paul Brown, St. Louis, Mo.; The Black Whirlwind, P. W. Ray & Son, Bowling Green, Ky.; Princess Eugenia, 6558, Eaton Farms, Mexico, Mo.; Queen of the Denmarks, 6686, Eaton Farms, Mexico, Mo.; Miss Cliff, 5524, Estill & Son, Estill, Mo.; Maurine Fisher, Jeff Fisher of Paris, Mo.; Mable McDonald, 3541, H. R. Blades, Holiday, Mo.

\$500 Junior Saddle Stake—Maurine Fisher, Jeff Fisher of Paris, Mo.; Eric Sensation, M. A. Steele of Freeport, Ill.; Carmen King, 5669, Estill & Son, Estill, Mo.; Sparkling Brown, French Field, Mexico, Mo.; Princess Eugenia, 6558, Eaton Farms, Mexico, Mo.; Senator Cantrall, 5705, Eaton Farms, Mexico, Mo.; Barbarian Rose, 6801, Eaton Farms, Mexico, Mo.; Flying Hawk, 5901, P. W. Ray & Son, Bowling Green, Ky.; King Monroe, 4099, Buckman Bros., Shelby, Mo.; Mary Dowling, Paul Brown, St. Louis; Silver King, James H. Wright, Smithville, Mo.; Forest Ike, McGowan Bros., Centralia; Kentucky's Best, Miss Loula Long, Longview Farm, Kansas City, Mo.; Easter Cloud, H. A. Greenwell, Lakenan, Mo.; Baronet, 3949, C. W. Viles, Bolivar, Mo.; Gypsy McDonald, Mary McClintic, Monroe City, Mo.; Excelsior Laddie, H. B. Lyons, Excelsior Springs, Mo.; Madison McDonald, Chester Atterbury, Madison, Mo.

\$500 Light-Harness Stake—Kentucky's Best, Miss Loula Long, Longview Farm, Kansas City, Mo.; Aspiration, Miss Loula Long, Longview Farm, Kansas City, Mo.; Peppers, Bert Luckey, Montgomery City, Mo.; Kentucky's Selection, 3972, P. W. Ray & Son, Bowling Green, Ky.; Princess Eugenia, 6558, Eaton Farms, Mexico, Mo.; Queen of the Denmarks, 6686, Eaton Farms, Mexico, Mo.; Peter Pan, Joseph T. Harris, Columbia, Mo.; Bracken Prince, 5281, John R. Reagan, Brooksville, Ky.; Golden Girl, 4765, John R. Reagan, Brooksville, Ky.

Mrs. I. E. Precht and children have returned to their home in Hannibal after a visit with Mrs. Precht's parents near Benton City, Mo. and Mrs. Rene Hildebrand.

The following young persons received their first communion at St. Brenden's Catholic church Sunday morning: Bernard Joseph Henry, Charles Lea Murphy, Henrietta Frances Ryan, Berenice Weinand and Margaret Mary Ryan.

Mrs. Wm. Schleeter of Farber visited relatives in Mexico community last week.

Prof. Herbert Pryor and family are visiting relatives in Pike county.

## OREAR HONORED.

Gets Appointment to Post in South America.

The following dispatch was sent out from Washington, D. C., last Saturday:

John D. O'Rear of Mexico, Mo., was today nominated for minister plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary to Bolivia. O'Rear is a constituent of Speaker Champ Clark, who warmly endorsed him to the president, the senators joining. The position pays a salary of \$10,000 a year, and is now held by Horace G. Knowles, of Delaware. The embassy is located at Lapaz, the capital of Bolivia and of the Department of Lapaz, situated in the valley of the Andes, 12,226 feet above sea level, and having a population of about 55,000. The principal industries of the district are mining, the rubber trade, and the cultivation of coffee and coca leaves. Bolivia has but little commerce with the United States. The climate is agreeable and healthful. Less than 100 Americans reside in Lapaz.

## CUIVRE ITEMS.

Mrs. Gorge Williams was on the sick list last week.

Clarence Bales sold two loads of hogs weighing 189 pounds at \$8.30.

Jake Harlinger visited his sister, Mrs. Marshall Hall, near Vandalia last week.

Mrs. Nona Johnston attended the funeral of her uncle, Mr. Geo. Fritch, near Laddonia Friday.

Miss Dolly Turley of Mexico, is visiting her cousin, Eva Brabant.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Deichman visited her brother, Louie Koeh, near Rush Hill Sunday.

Mrs. Phil McDaniel is quite sick with pneumonia fever.

Miss Georgia Williams is visiting her friend, Miss Ruth Dubray.

Tom Brace visited at Mexico Saturday and Sunday.

John Brabant and family spent Sunday at Brown Sturats.

Mrs. Deringer is visiting Mrs. Sam West.

Mr. and Mrs. George Youngblood and Mrs. George Brace and children spent Sunday at A. E. Braces.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Rhue visited at Farber Sunday.

Children's Day at Salt River Church.

J. D. Greer of Mexico held preaching service Sunday morning at Salt River church west of Mexico and an excellent program was given by the children in the afternoon. A bountiful dinner was spread. The unveiling of the portrait of Missionary Wharton, the first missionary sent to India by the Christian church, was a part of the afternoon program.

Work was commenced Monday for the paving of Western Ave. Dave Owen has charge of the excavating and J. A. Stewart of Columbia will superintend the laying of the paving.

The State Bureau of Vital Statistics reports 6073 births for April and 3463 deaths. Were that an indication for the year our fear of race suicide would subside.

The Mexico Scouts base ball team beat the Wellsville Scouts in a game at the Military grounds in Mexico last Friday. The score stood 16 to 15.

**Mexico Savings Bank**  
Capital Stock, \$150,000.00  
43rd Year in Business.  
W. W. FRY, President.  
SAM LOCKE, Cashier.